BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 12-21* *May 25, 2012*

- **Retail sales in B.C. edge down 0.2% in March; up 0.2% during the first quarter.**
- **The number of B.C. residents collecting regular E.I. benefits falls 1.0% in March.**
- **Family members account for a quarter of all victims of violent crime in 2010.**

The Economy

- **Retailers in British Columbia saw sales dip 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March following back-to-back monthly gains.** Receipts were higher at building material, garden equipment & supply stores (+10.0%). However, this increase was offset by fading revenues generated at gasoline stations (-4.3%), sporting good, hobby, music & book stores (-2.0%), and food & beverage retailers (-1.2%).

  Nationally, retailers posted a 0.4% increase in total sales in March. Gains in Ontario (+1.2%), Saskatchewan (+0.7%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.7%) were well above the national average. Meanwhile, weaker sales were reported in New Brunswick (-1.5%), Manitoba (-0.6%), Nova Scotia (-0.3%), and P.E.I. (-0.3%). Revenues in Quebec were also down, though only marginally (-0.1%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **There were 59,840 (*seasonally adjusted*) people receiving regular Employment Insurance (E.I.) benefits in British Columbia in March, down 1.0% from the previous month.** During the twelve month period since March 2011, the number of E.I. recipients in B.C. has dropped sharply (-14.0%). While the number of people collecting regular E.I. benefits has remained virtually unchanged in Abbotsford, the number of beneficiaries in Vancouver (-17.9%) and Victoria (-16.9%) has fallen considerably between March 2011 and March 2012.

  Canada-wide, the number of regular E.I. beneficiaries dipped 0.5% in March. Increases in E.I. claimants were recorded in Nova Scotia (+5.4%), Saskatchewan (+3.4%), Ontario (+2.1%), and New Brunswick (+1.4%). In Alberta, the number of people receiving benefits continued to decline (-2.9%) in March.
  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **In 2010, there were 3,878 logging establishments operating in British Columbia, 199 fewer than the previous year.** Despite the decrease in the number of establishments, revenues generated by the logging industry jumped 12.8% between 2009 and 2010. Likewise, expenses incurred rose 9.4%, with the total amount paid out in wages, salaries increased by 6.9%. Employment in the logging industry increased 5.8% in 2010.

  Between 2005 and 2009, revenues generated by B.C.'s logging industry tumbled by more than half (-55.4%), with employment over that time shrinking from 19,390 to 10,941.
  Data Source: Statistics Canada

First Quarter in Review

- **Retail sales in British Columbia inched ahead 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) during the first quarter of 2012.** While the first quarter increase was only slight, it does mark a fourth consecutive quarterly improvement in revenues earned by the retail sector. Leading the way were gains registered at clothing and accessory stores (+5.7%), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+4.1%), and building material, garden equipment & supply stores (+3.4%). Offsetting most of those increases were

Report **No report this issue**

Did you know...

There were approximately 406,000 resident anglers in B.C. in 2010, up 6% from 2005.

Data Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

weaker sales at electronics and appliance stores (-7.1%), gasoline stations (-1.7%), and food and beverage stores (-0.5%).

At the national level, retail sales rose 0.3% during the first quarter of 2012. While six provinces—chiefly Saskatchewan (-1.4%), Manitoba (-0.9%), Quebec (-0.6%) and Nova Scotia (-0.6%)—reported significant declines in sales, the national total was buoyed by a jump in retail activity in Ontario (+1.3%). Also recording higher sales during the quarter were P.E.I. (+0.9%) and Alberta (+0.3%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Crime

- **In 2010, there were 13,574 victims of police-reported family violence in British Columbia, accounting for roughly one-quarter (24%) of all victims of violent crime in the province.**[1] This translates into a rate of 302 victims per 100,000 population, slightly higher than the national rate of 294. Among the provinces, the lowest rate for police-reported family violence was recorded in Ontario (196), followed by P.E.I. (234) and Nova Scotia (264). The highest rates of family violence were reported in Saskatchewan (644) and Manitoba (430).

Among Canada's largest metropolitan areas, two of the five highest rates of police-reported family violence were found in cities in British Columbia.[2] Kelowna (346) and Abbottsford (325) had, respectively, the third and fourth highest rates of family violence, surpassed only by rates in Saint John, New Brunswick (420) and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (351). The province's other two major metropolitan areas, Vancouver (223) and Victoria (222) had rates that were virtually identical and well below both the provincial and national averages. *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 85-002-X*

Retirement Pension Plans

- **Membership in registered retirement plans (RPPs) for those employed in British Columbia fell 0.7% to 691,140 in 2010.** On an industry basis, RPP membership was up among public sector industries (+3.1%), but down sharply (-5.1%) among private sector plans.

Pension plan coverage in B.C. was slightly higher among women (51%) compared to men (49%). This marks a dramatic shift in RPP coverage from the early 1970s when only one quarter (25%) of members in a registered pension plan were women.

Approximately three-quarters (75%) of RPP members working in B.C. were covered by a defined benefit plan. However, over the past decade, the share of defined benefit plan memberships has steadily declined from a high of 87% as employers and organizations opt for defined contribution or hybrid pension plans. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

Canada's composite index of leading indicators continued to climb (+0.3%) in April, matching the increase recorded the previous month. This marks the tenth straight monthly increase for the index, with seven of ten major leading indicators having advanced.

Despite a slightly shorter average workweek (-0.3%) and a downturn in the value of new orders of durable goods (-1.2%), the composite index rose on the strength of the heated housing market (+3.5%). In line with an increase in home-building, sales of appliances and furniture (+0.5%) were also up compared to the previous month. Purchases of other durable goods were also higher (+0.6%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

[1] Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), parents, children, siblings, and extended family.

[2] A (census) metropolitan area consists of one or more highly integrated neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core with a total population of at least 100,000.

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the **Internet** at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,597.9	1.0
Canada	34,670.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2012	3,186	0.4
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2012	2,707	-2.0
Retail Sales - Mar 2012	5,137	-0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Apr 2012)		
BC	1.6	2.1
Vancouver	1.9	2.1
Victoria	1.6	1.9
Canada	2.0	2.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2012	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	19.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,473.1	0.1
Employed - BC	2,318.8	0.9
Unemployed - BC	154.3	-10.7
		Mar 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.2	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.3	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 23/2012	May 25/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.20	3.70
- 5 year	5.44	5.59
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 23/2012	May 25/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0275	0.9765
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9764	1.0226
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2012	
BC	844.42	2.0
Canada	859.11	2.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds, including: Aboriginal Peoples, Business and Industry, Census, Economic Statistics, Education, Environment, Geography and Mapping, Income, Pensions, Spending and Wealth, International and Interprovincial Trade, Labour, Population, Demography and Immigration, and more.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013
- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013
- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013
- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm

Census 2011 Fast Facts

According to the 2011 census, compared to other provinces, BC's population growth was second only to Alberta over the 2006 to 2011 period. In May of 2011, the census counted 4,400,057 persons in BC, up 286,570 (+7.0%) from the 2006 count. Read more on the 2011 Census page:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- 2011 Census, Age and Sex, Tuesday, 29th
- Business Indicators, May 2012

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca